Stormy September weather

24 September 2012 - Very unsettled weather is affecting most parts of the UK and the public are warned to be prepared for possible travel disruption and flooding over the next few days.

Much of the southern half of the UK saw between 30 and 50 mm of rain during Sunday. The heaviest rain has now moved north to affect parts of the north of England, the midlands and north and east Wales where 80 to 100 mm of rain may fall locally in places over the next 24 hours.

Steve Willington, Met Office Chief Forecaster, said: "A deep area of low pressure moved north from the Bay of Biscay over the weekend and will persist over the UK until the middle of the week.

"Everyone should be prepared for the effects of heavy rain and strong to gale force winds as they combine to bring the potential for travel disruption and localised flooding over the next few days. We encourage the public to keep up to date with the latest forecasts and warnings for their area on our website and with forecasts on TV and radio during this unsettled spell."

Strong to gale force winds will also affect some areas, with eastern Scotland, the far northeast of England and also southeast England likely to have gusts of 50 - 60 mph and as high as 70 mph along in the coasts.

Keith Brown, Transport Minister for Scotland, said: "In light of the Met Office warning for wind and rain in many parts of the country, our trunk road operating companies have all their resources available, including patrols, and will pre-position resources in areas of special attention.

"The Traffic Scotland website, Variable Message Signs and Traffic internet radio are being used to provide up to date information to the travelling public, allowing them to plan and amend their journeys accordingly.

"Our Multi Agency Response Team (MART) is now operational until the weather improves."

Alison Baptiste, Flood Risk Manager at the Environment Agency said: "We are already seeing travel disruption due to the wet weather and could well see flooding across the country this week. We strongly urge people to sign up to flood warnings, keep a close eye on local weather forecasts and be prepared for the possibility of flooding. We also ask that people stay safe, by staying away swollen rivers and not attempting to drive through floodwater.

"The Environment Agency already has teams out on the ground checking on flood defences and clearing any blockages in order to reduce the risk of flooding as much as possible."

Contact information

Met Office Press Office: **+44 (0)1392 886655**

E-mail: Press Office

Met Office Customer Centre: **01392 885680**

If you're outside the UK: **+44 1392 885680**

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